

Rodeo, Carnival Great Experience For Youngsters

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Page 7

MERTZON — Biggest excitement during the past week was the rodeo in San Angelo. For 24 years, March has meant rodeo time in the Wool Capital. Each year, every outlander who can find an excuse to skip feeding his stock tears into town. The streets are always decorated with flags and bunting. The head of the costume department at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer couldn't duplicate the western outfits of the citizens.

The event is held in March due to the wisdom of the rodeo's founders. These wily old sages had the foresight to realize that anyone foolish enough to brave the wind and dust in late winter in the Shortgrass Country just to see a rodeo was a prime prospect to load up with everything from a red Kewpie Doll to a plastic money tied on a walking stick.

The early rodeo directors also wanted to be sure that the tight-money boys, who are too smart to get outdoors in such weather, did not cast a pall of gloom over the affair. So far, the reasoning of the founding fathers has paid handsome dividends.

The main advantage of the celebration is what it does for the youngsters. Besides amusing them, the fairgrounds are a perfect training field for later life.

Child specialists, in conjunction with marriage experts, have long maintained that the nation's best-adjusted married men have had early association with fairs and rodeos. These scientists discovered that the consumption of the food and drinks commonly found around the show sites provide excellent immunity against the future shock of frozen TV dinners and leftover bridge club sandwiches.

While experiments leading to this knowledge was in progress, the study groups also learned that one 65-pound boy led by a teenager could run the course of the food concessions every 12 hours without visible damage. At the same time, it was found that the fumes from the food stands were sufficient to disrupt the digestive process of a healthy adult.

In conclusion, the researchers decided that if kids were allowed to graze at will at all types of public events during their formative years, they would be able to wade through imitation nutrients and artificial dinners that would give a South American anteater a food rash.

Children obtain other useful lessons at fairs and rodeos. For example, throughout the history of these gathering, the carnival operators have worked diligently to prepare youngsters for the day when they will always go home broke. By long-standing tradition, the carnie people have patiently taught young patrons that there are ample ways to lose your money without having a hole in your pocket.

All in all, this particular show in San Angelo has added a great deal to life in the Shortgrass County. Many a dry spring has been temporarily forgotten in the clamor and excitement of the rodeo. Both the rodeo and the weather have their critics, but no one can deny that rodeoing in March sure beats the hound out of trying to ranch during that fateful month.